

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**  
**BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**



1300 St. Francis Road  
Santa Rosa, California 95409

[www.blc-bcc.com](http://www.blc-bcc.com)

# BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

AND BETHLEHEM CHILDREN'S CENTER

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Baptism of Our Lord

January 10, 2021

## Worship Notes

**WELCOME** to the fellowship of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We gather to give praise and thanks to the One who has given us Christ Jesus, and through him, all things. Our goal is to rejoice in the presence of the Lord before we begin a new week, to support one another in prayer and to challenge one another to live as people of God in our homes, offices, shops, factories, schools and playgrounds. We believe the Christian life is the most rewarding, demanding and fulfilling life possible ... Please join us.

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Gathered to worship,  
Equipped by the Holy Spirit,  
Strengthened through community,  
Sent in peace to serve the Lord.

### ONLINE WORSHIP:

Please join us for worship on our YouTube channel or on our Facebook page. All connections available through our website: [blc-bcc.com](http://blc-bcc.com)

### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY:

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

# Service of Holy Communion

## Baptism of our Lord



### WELCOME

### INVOCATION

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**People: Amen.**

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence for reflection*

Holy God,

**People: you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

Pastor: How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. In-deed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

**People: Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: "For the Beauty of the Earth"

ELW #879

vs. 1 & 5



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,  
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:  
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

*Refrain*



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

PSALM READING

Psalm 29

*The Psalm is spoken responsively*

Reader: Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

People: **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

Reader: The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**People:** The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

Reader: The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**People:** The LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

Reader: The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**People:** The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

Reader: The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”

**People:** The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

Reader: O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

**Mark 1:4-11**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Pastor: Word of God. Word of life.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## **SERMON**

**“Hearing Voices”**

**Pastor Brian J. Claasen**

*Silence for reflection*

HYMN OF THE DAY: "O God beyond All Praising"

ELW #880

vs. 1 & 3



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day  
2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,  
3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;  
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;  
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,  
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown -  
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:  
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav - en's gar - den grown:  
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,  
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,  
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.  
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry,  
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

## THE PRAYERS

Pastor: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*After each portion of the prayers:*

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People: Have mercy, O God.**

*The prayers conclude:*

Pastor: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**People: Amen.**

## THE PEACE

Pastor: May the peace of Christ be with you always.

**People: And also with you.**

*The minister and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of Christ's peace, and may say these or similar words:*

**Peace be with you.**

## GATHERING OF GIFTS

## Stewardship of our Lives

*The Offering is received and the Lord's Table is prepared*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

**People: Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

Pastor: Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed. Let us share them with one another and receive them unto ourselves.

### **COMMUNION**

*All are welcome at the Table of the Lord*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**                      **“How Great Thou Art”**                      **Four For His Glory**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Pastor: Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name.

**People: Amen.**

### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in his grace.

**People: Amen.**

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,  
 thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trca - surc thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## **BLESSING**

Pastor: God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace.

**People: Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God!**



ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Preaching..... Pastor Brian Claasen  
Organist .....Barbara Laferriere  
Reader .....Jason Kracht  
Four for His Glory.....John Hall, Chuck VanDeventer,  
Bill Morgan, & Brian Bertoli  
*Accompanied by Maryellen Birkland*  
Hymns..... Brian & Janet Bertoli

*Special thanks to all who help with our worship!*

